

March 10, 2022

Members of the Housing Committee:

Co-Chair Representative Quentin Williams

Co-Chair Senator Rick Lopes

Vice-Chair Representative Smith

Vice-Chair Senator Anwar

I request that the committee **OPPOSE S.B. 292, AN ACT CONCERNING HEATING EFFICIENCY IN NEW RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION AND MAJOR ALTERATIONS OF RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS.**

My name is David Sousa Co-owner of J&A Waterville Oil Service located in Naugatuck, CT. I am a third generation business owner within the company that has been established in Naugatuck since 1953. I am a lifelong Connecticut resident and currently live in Prospect, CT. I am a loyal husband and father to two beautiful little girls (ages 5 & 8).

I oppose SB 292 because it is reckless and out of touch with reality. I don't doubt that it has the best of intentions, but it is truly putting the cart before the horse. If passed, it will put Connecticut resident lives in danger.

This bill talks about training and educating professionals about heat pumps. I know enough about heat pumps to know that these units are much more complex and involved than conventional air conditioning equipment. With respect to repairs, even an experienced HVAC technician is on the phone with technical support when working on these units, no matter the brand. I also know that I will not work on one of these pieces of equipment in cold winter conditions because it exposes myself and my company's liability insurance to extremely cold conditions where my techs could expose themselves to slips and falls, exhaustion, heart problems, frostbite, and potentially worse. If we are on our way to banning combustion, which is what this bill is truly about, we will not be allowed to set up heated tents at outdoor units; heated tents that would provide HVAC professionals a safe working environment. Not to mention, it potentially exposes my customers to supply chain issues for parts and shipping, exorbitantly higher repair and maintenance costs (hundreds to over a thousand dollars per call) than they are accustomed to, and increased overall stress. Moreover, those same customers will need backup heat in the form of a conventional heating system; therefore, adding to the overall underlying cost and the quantity of equipment to maintain or replace in their homes. I have spoken with many HVAC technicians and contractors that share my sentiment.

The HVAC industry is going to turn into a bigger mess than it already is. The constant bid wars that occur will inevitably lead to companies underbidding each other to get work but making the consumer suffer through comfort or lack thereof. Many contractors have a difficult time sizing these units properly. Should we size them for air conditioning (cooling) season? Or, should we size them for heating season? Most manufacturers will tell you to size for air conditioning (cooling) season. With current heat pump technology, we are doing a disservice to the customer no matter which option we choose: If we size for air conditioning (cooling) season, we don't provide enough heat in cold temperatures. If we size for

heating season, we can create unhealthy homes that can make people sick through a lack of proper indoor air quality. Heat pumps do not currently incorporate methods of dealing with poor indoor air quality; at some point, we will be adding that additional cost to our customers.

Lastly, SB 292 lacks vision and, moreover, is asking us to commit to a document that has not been written yet (IECC 2024). I cannot think of a more dystopian, more out of touch with reality thought. Worst of all, you are wasting my time and hard-earned tax money by introducing legislation that puts people in danger and insults our (HVAC professional) intelligence. Full electrification may be the future, but it has not arrived; nor has our electrical grid. There is no bridge to electrification yet. There are no medium and heavy-duty electric vehicles yet, so how is one expected to do the heavy work? I am sure that the heavy work and the equipment associated with it will be HEAVILY taxed in the future. The grid cannot handle a summer electric peak, let alone a winter one; never mind one with vehicle charging. Texas residents had the utilities remotely change the settings on their thermostats without the homeowners' knowledge during a time of crisis. Choosing electrification and simply cutting off fossil fuels is reckless policy at this point in time.

The HVAC field has a ready now path to de-carbonizing home heating. Heating oil equipment IS Biofuel equipment. Increased use of Biofuel is a legitimate and immediate solution to many of these problems. If you ban Heating Oil equipment, you ban Biofuel equipment. We need Biofuel and other less carbon intense fuels, which are the answer to our issues. Please consider them instead of passing a harmful and dangerous bill such as SB 292!

Respectfully,

David Sousa

J&A Waterville Oil Service